



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO

**NNPDF**  
Machine Learning • PDFs • QCD

# Evidence of intrinsic charm in the proton

Niccolò Laurenti,  
on behalf of the **NNPDF** collaboration

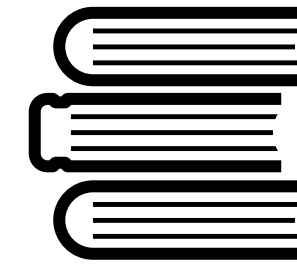
MENU 2023, Mainz, 20/10/2023



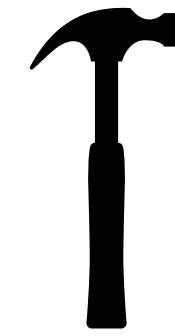
Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare



# Outline



**Theory background**



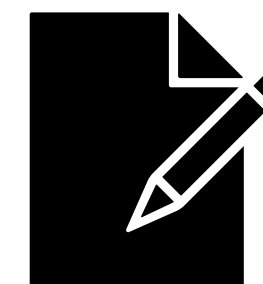
**Methodology**



**Results**

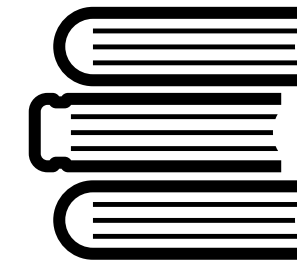


**Further developments**

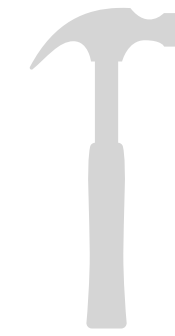


**Summary and Outlook**

# Outline



**Theory background**



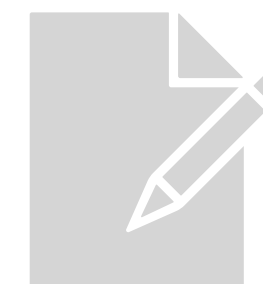
**Methodology**



**Results**



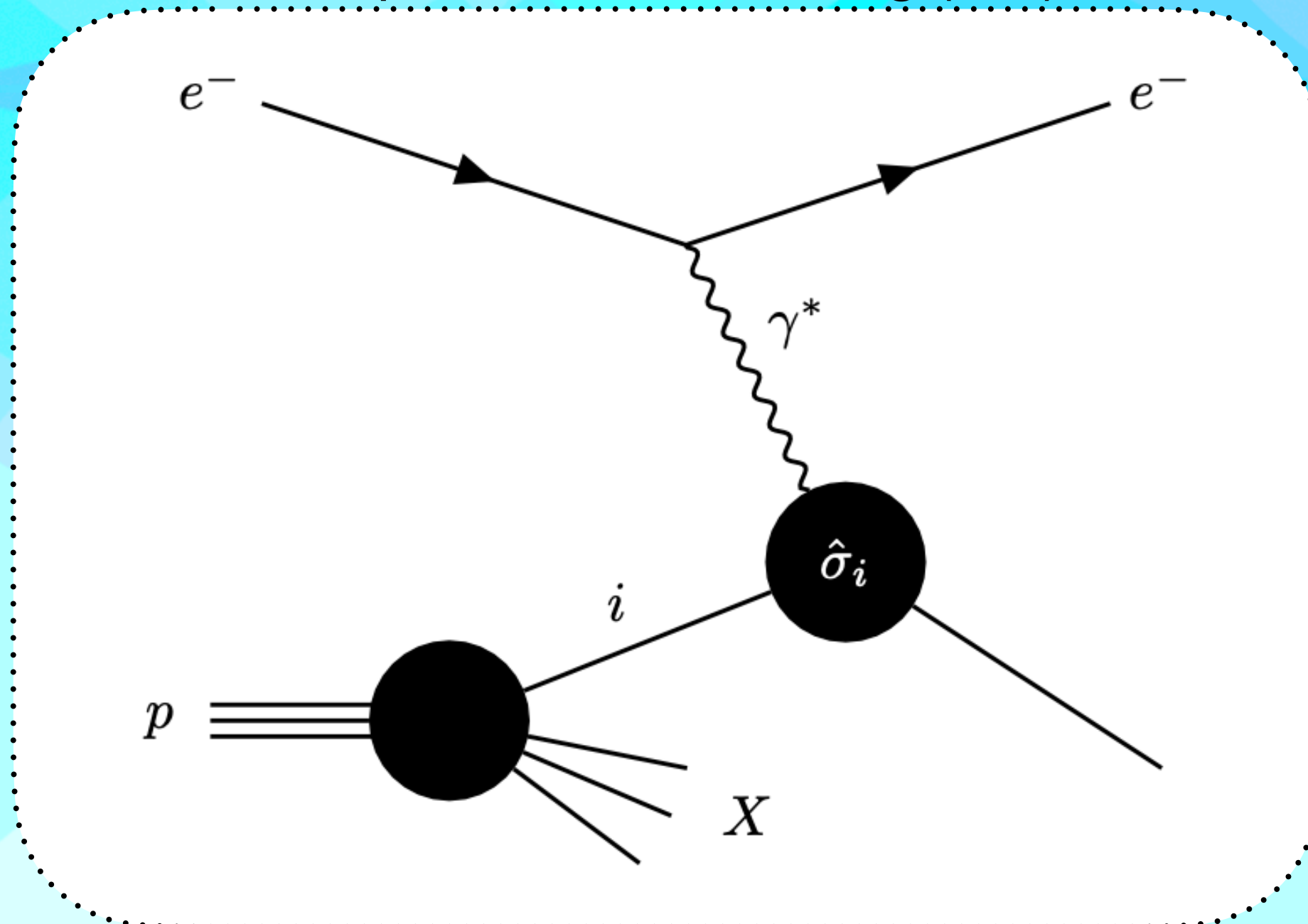
**Further developments**



**Summary and Outlook**

- How do we compute observables in HEP?
- What are the PDFs?

Deep inelastic scattering (DIS)



partonic cross-sections:  $\hat{\sigma}_i$

PDFs:  $f_i$

Physics observable:  $\sigma$

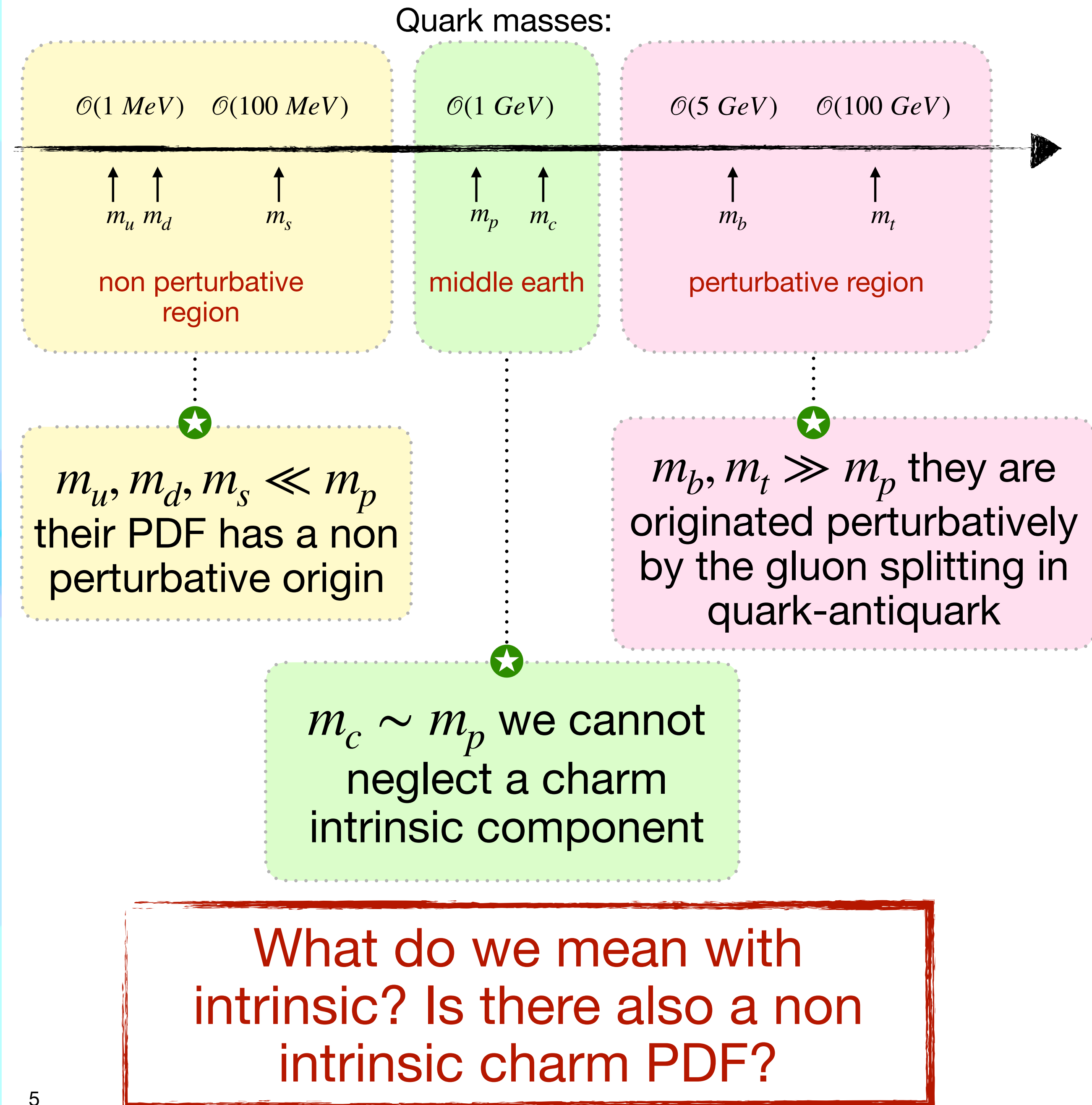
contain the perturbative part

contain the non perturbative part

Factorization theorem

$$\sigma = \sum_i \hat{\sigma}_i \otimes f_i + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^2/Q^2)$$

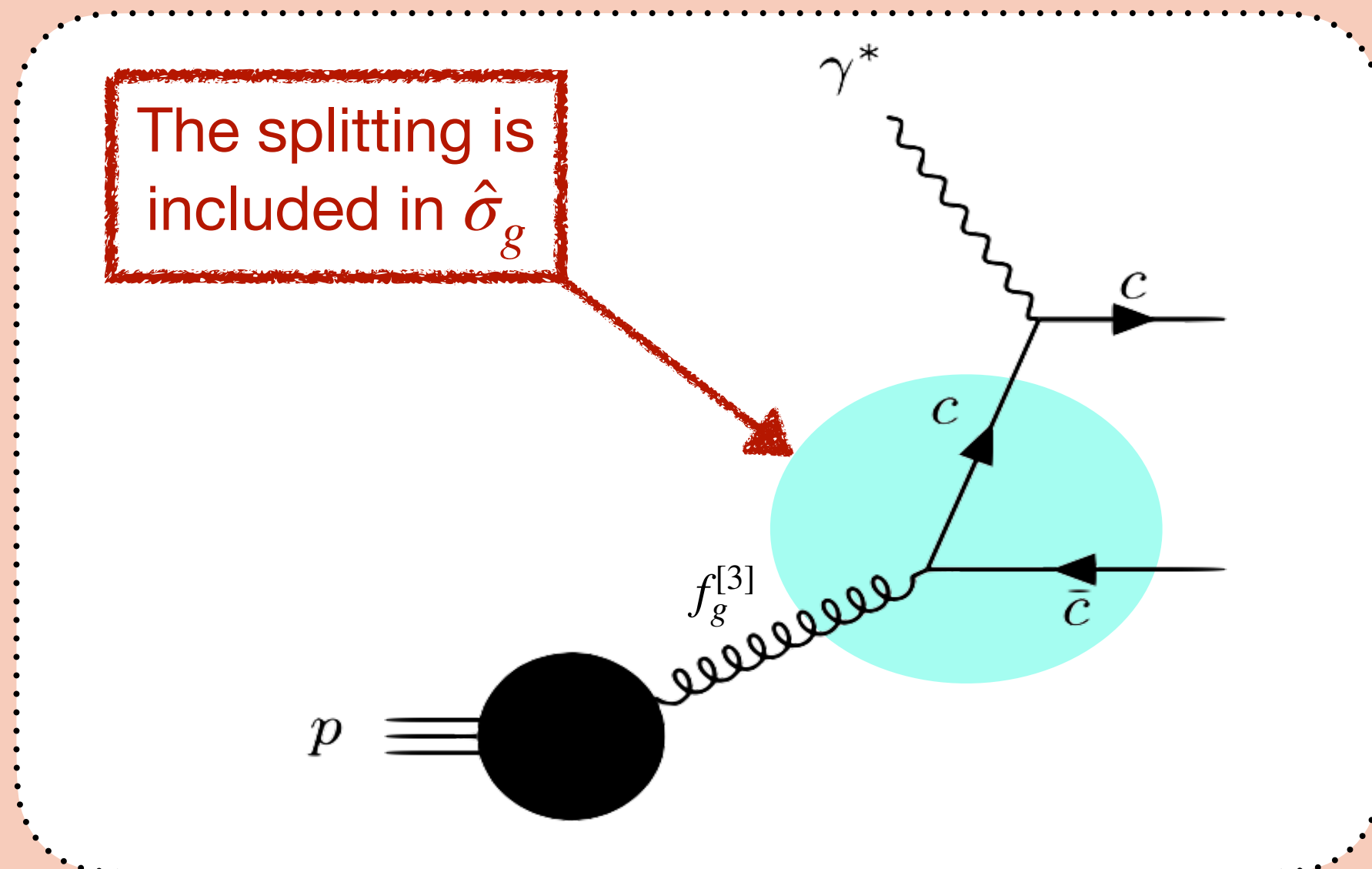
- Which quark does have a PDF?
- What do we mean with intrinsic charm?



# Observables can be computed in different **schemes**:

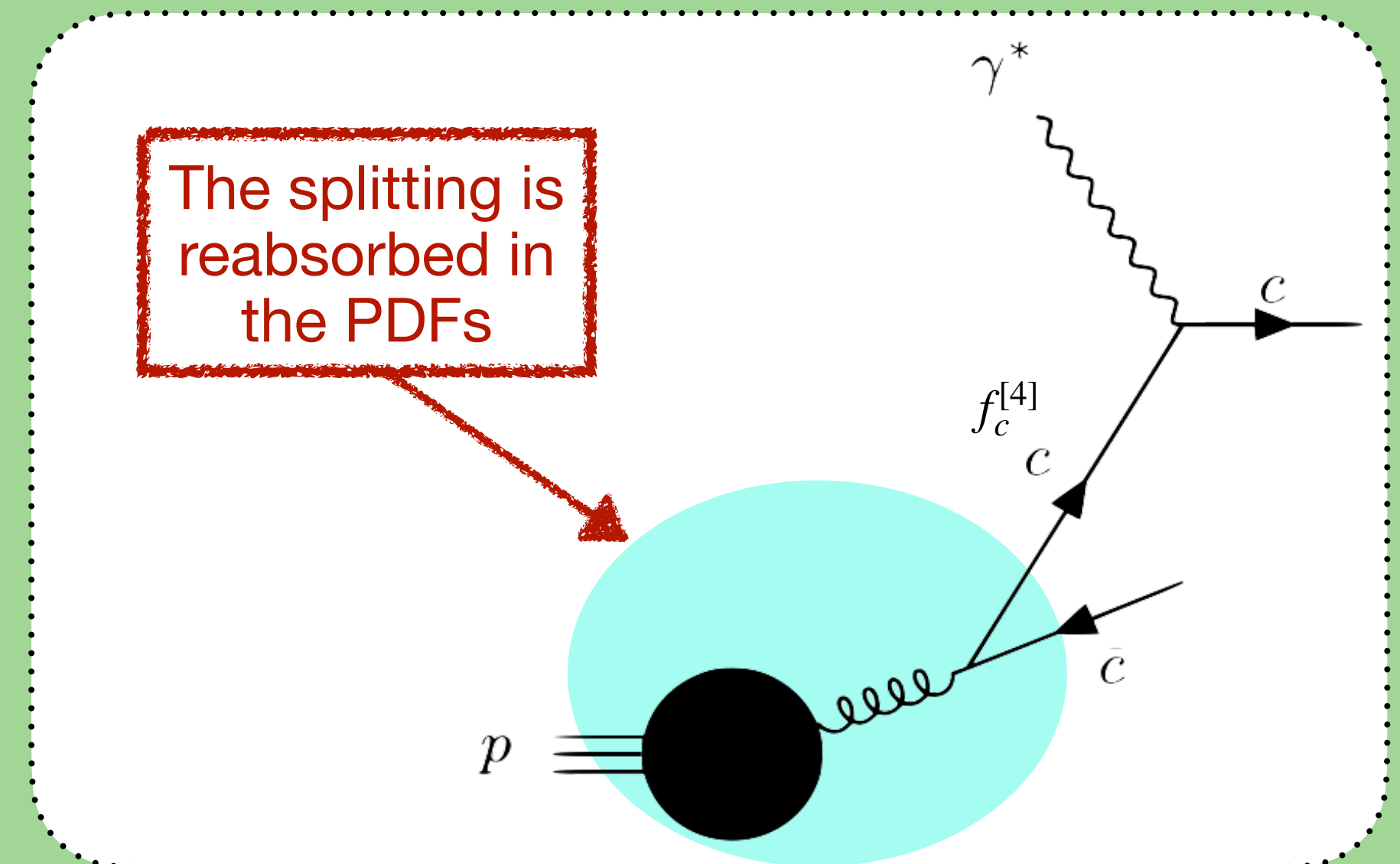
## 3 Flavor scheme (3FS)

- 3 light flavors  $\implies$  only  $u, d, s, g$  evolve with DGLAP
- $\hat{\sigma}_i$  contain the charm mass dependence



## 4 Flavor scheme (4FS)

- Charm is massless  $\implies$  it evolves with DGLAP
- The charm splittings are reabsorbed in the PDFs



Putting  $m_c = 0$  above  $\mu_c$  would be a rough approximation. Things are more complicated than that! (backup)

- How do we relate PDFs in different flavor schemes?
- Which are the different components of the charm PDF?

$$f_i^{[4]}(\mu_c) = \sum_{j=g,q,\bar{q},c,\bar{c}} A_{ij} \left( \frac{m_c^2}{\mu_c^2} \right) \otimes f_j^{[3]}(\mu_c^2) \quad i = g, q, \bar{q}, c, \bar{c}$$

$A_{ij}$  are the matching conditions:  
almost fully known up to  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$

$$A_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) & i = j \\ \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$f_c^{[4]}(\mu_c) = \left( 1 + \alpha_s A_{cc}^{(1)} \right) f_c^{[3]}(\mu_c) + \alpha_s \sum_{j=g,q,\bar{q}} A_{cj}^{(1)} \otimes f_j^{[3]}(\mu_c^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$$

**Intrinsic part:**  
not present with  
zero intrinsic charm

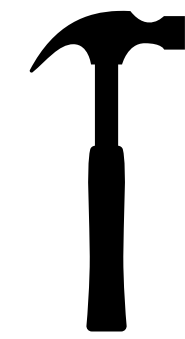
**Perturbative part:**  
present also with zero  
intrinsic charm

The intrinsic charm is the charm PDF in the 3FS, i.e. below  $\mu_c$

# Outline



Theory background



**Methodology**



Results



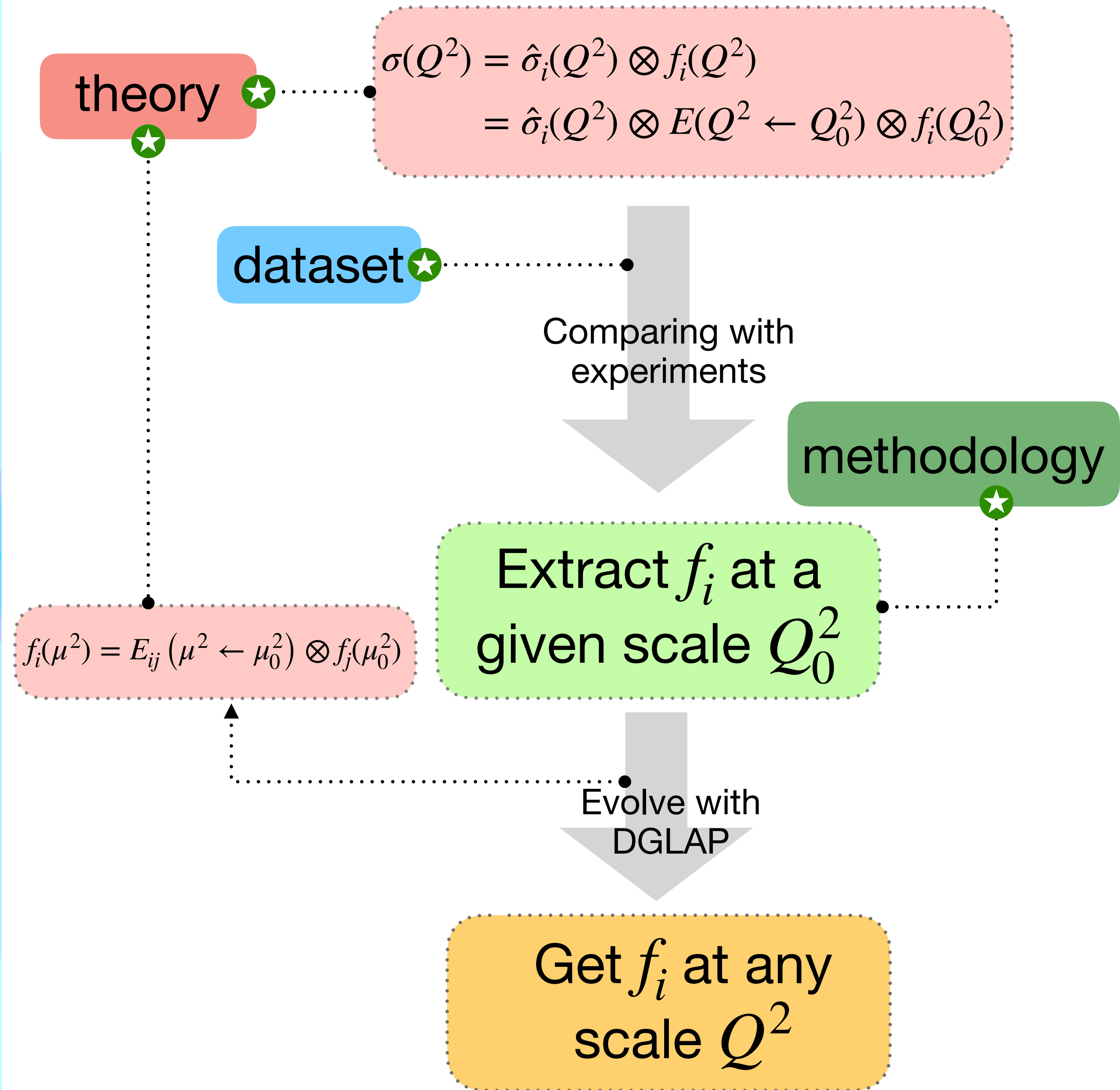
Further developments



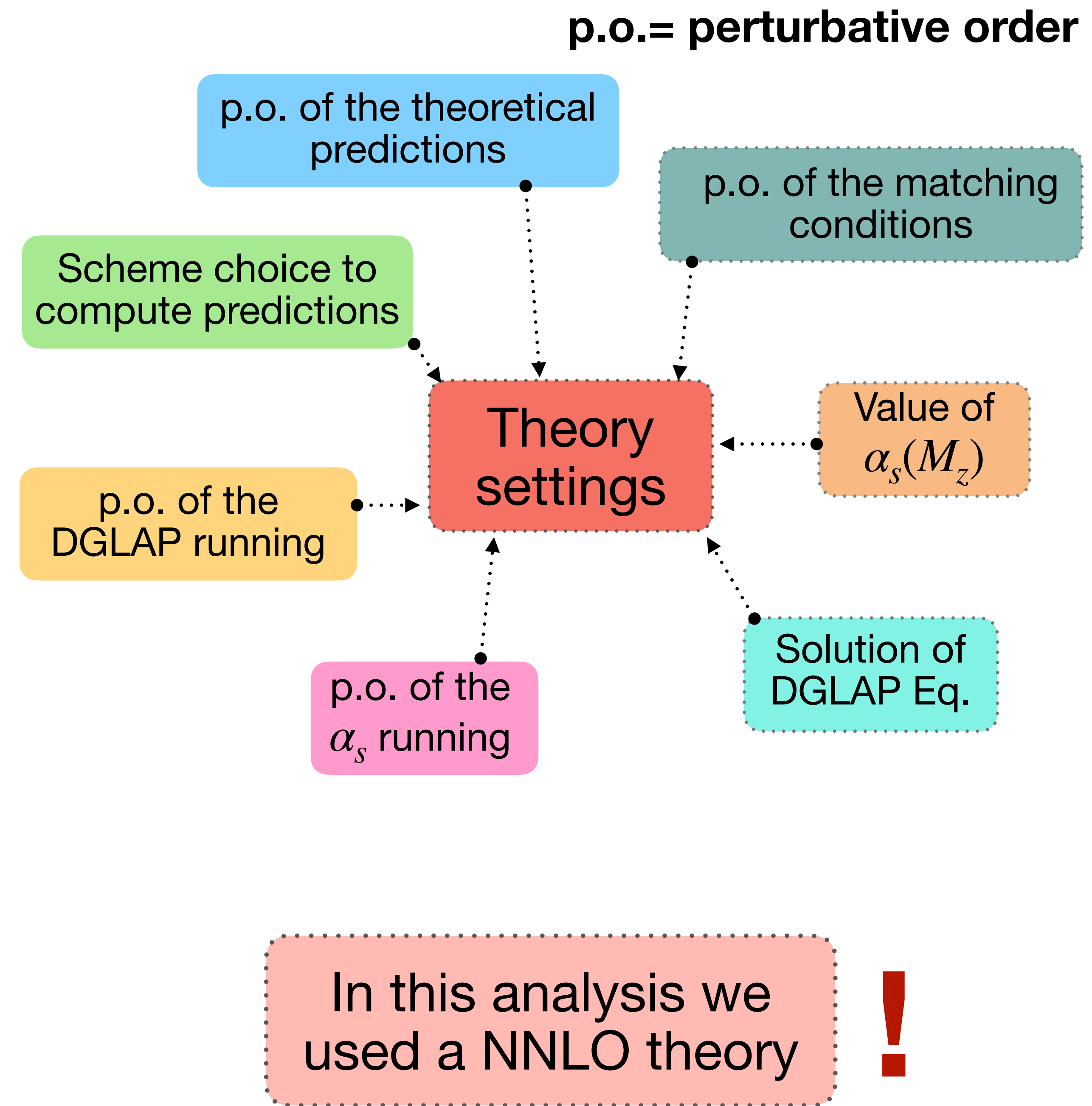
Summary and Outlook



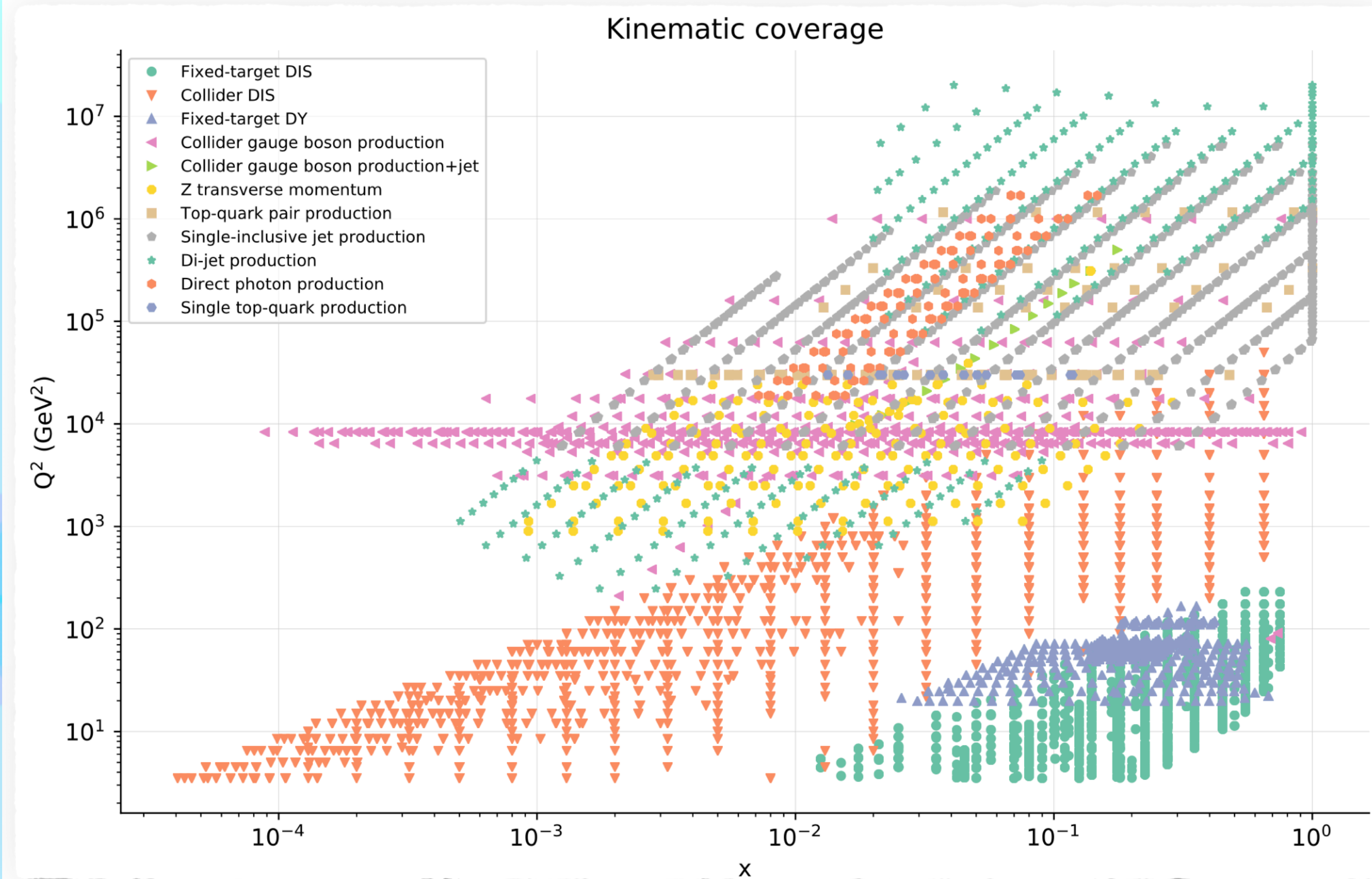
- How are the PDFs fitted?
- Which ingredients are required for a PDFs fit?



- **Theory**
- What defines the theory of a fit?

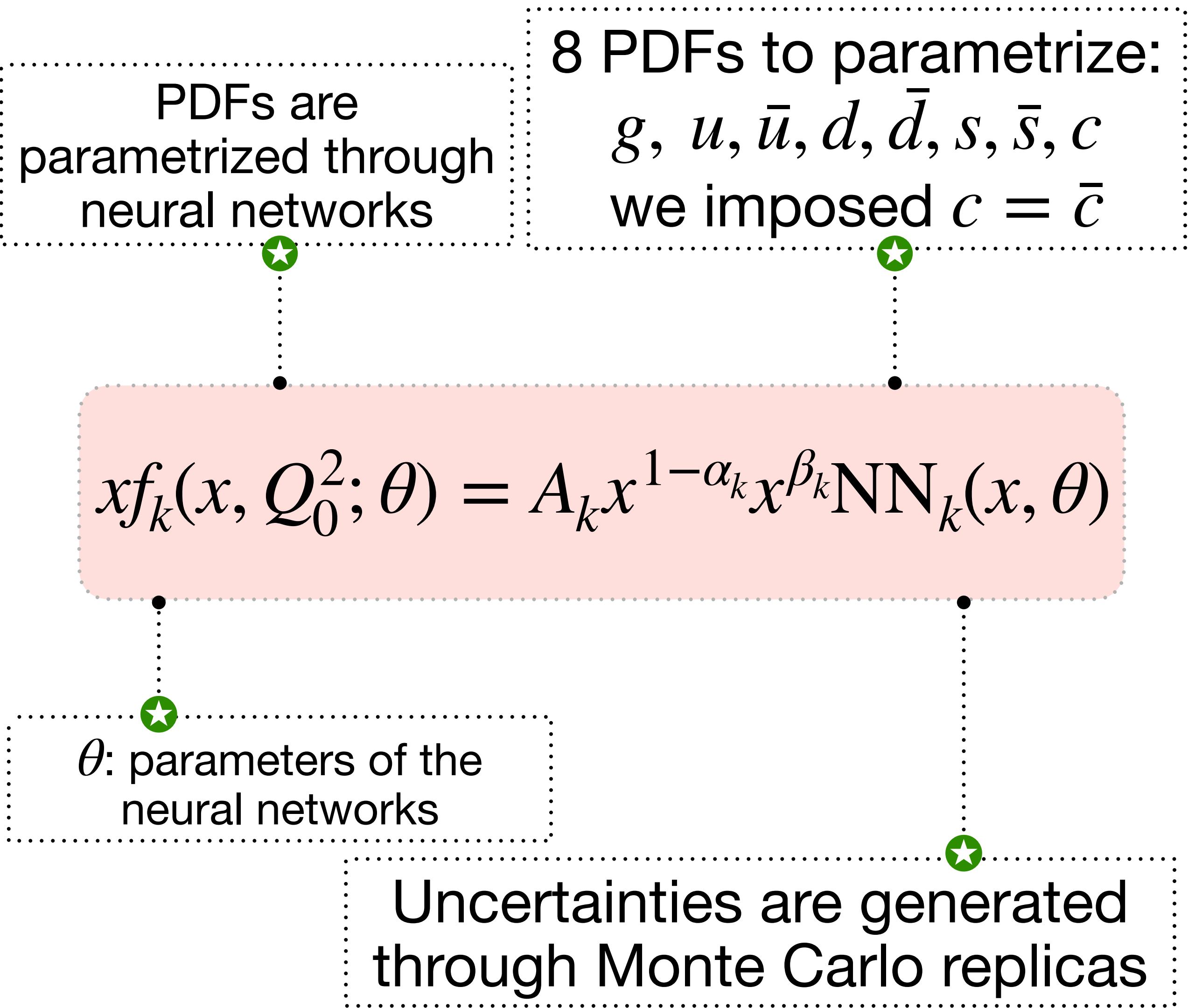


- Dataset
- Which data points are included in the fit?



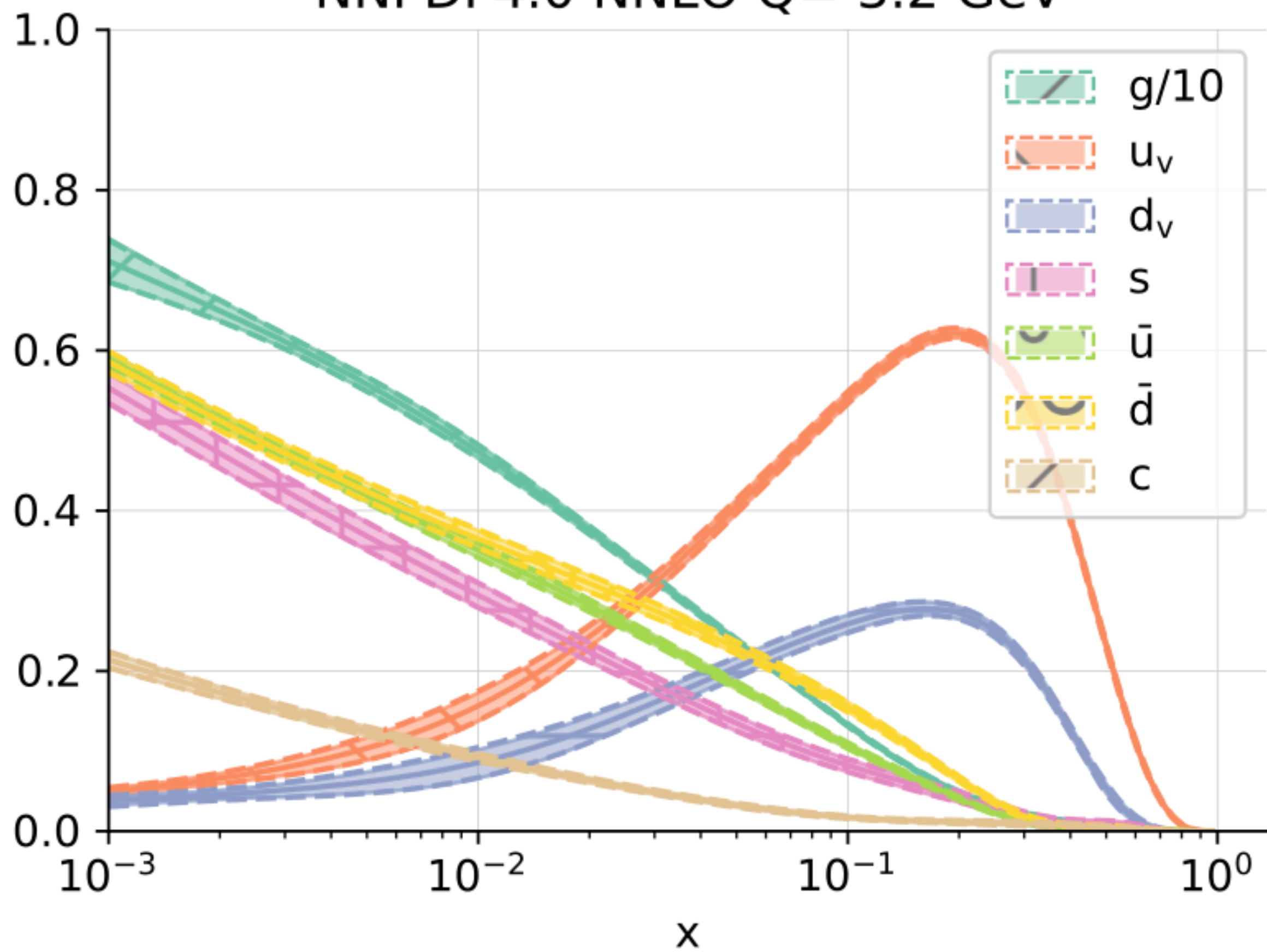
4618 data points from  
different processes

- Methodology
- How are the PDFs extracted?

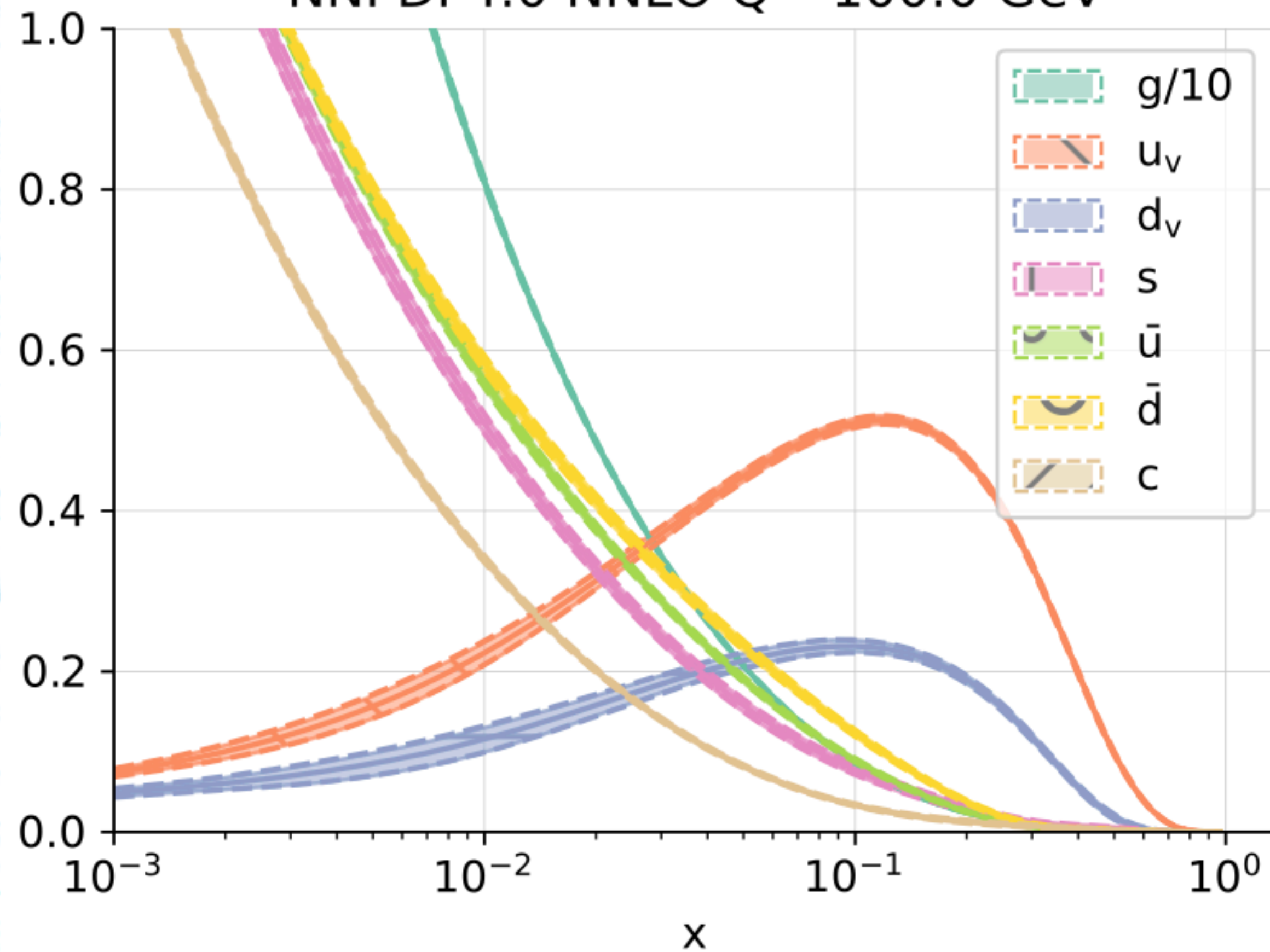


☑ Results of the fit

NNPDF4.0 NNLO  $Q = 3.2$  GeV



NNPDF4.0 NNLO  $Q = 100.0$  GeV



- How did we determine the intrinsic charm?

Step 1: perform a fit with  $Q_0 = 1.65 > \mu_c = m_c$

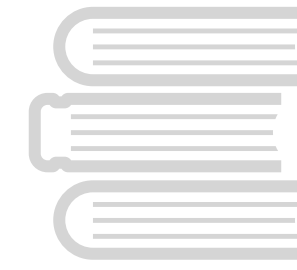
Gives  $f_i^{[4]}(Q_0^2)$

Step 2: evolve  $f_i^{[4]}(Q_0^2)$  back to  $\mu_c$   
 $f_i^{[4]}(\mu_c^2) = E_{ik}(\mu_c^2 \leftarrow Q_0^2) \otimes f_k^{[4]}(Q_0^2)$

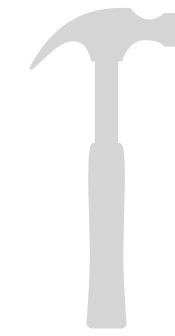
Step 3: obtain charm PDF in 3FS  
 $f_c^{[3]}(\mu_c^2) = A_{ck}^{-1}(m_c^2/\mu_c^2) \otimes f_k^{[4]}(\mu_c^2)$

Step 4: is  $f_c^{[3]}(\mu_c^2)$  compatible with zero or **not**?

# Outline



Theory background



Methodology



**Results**

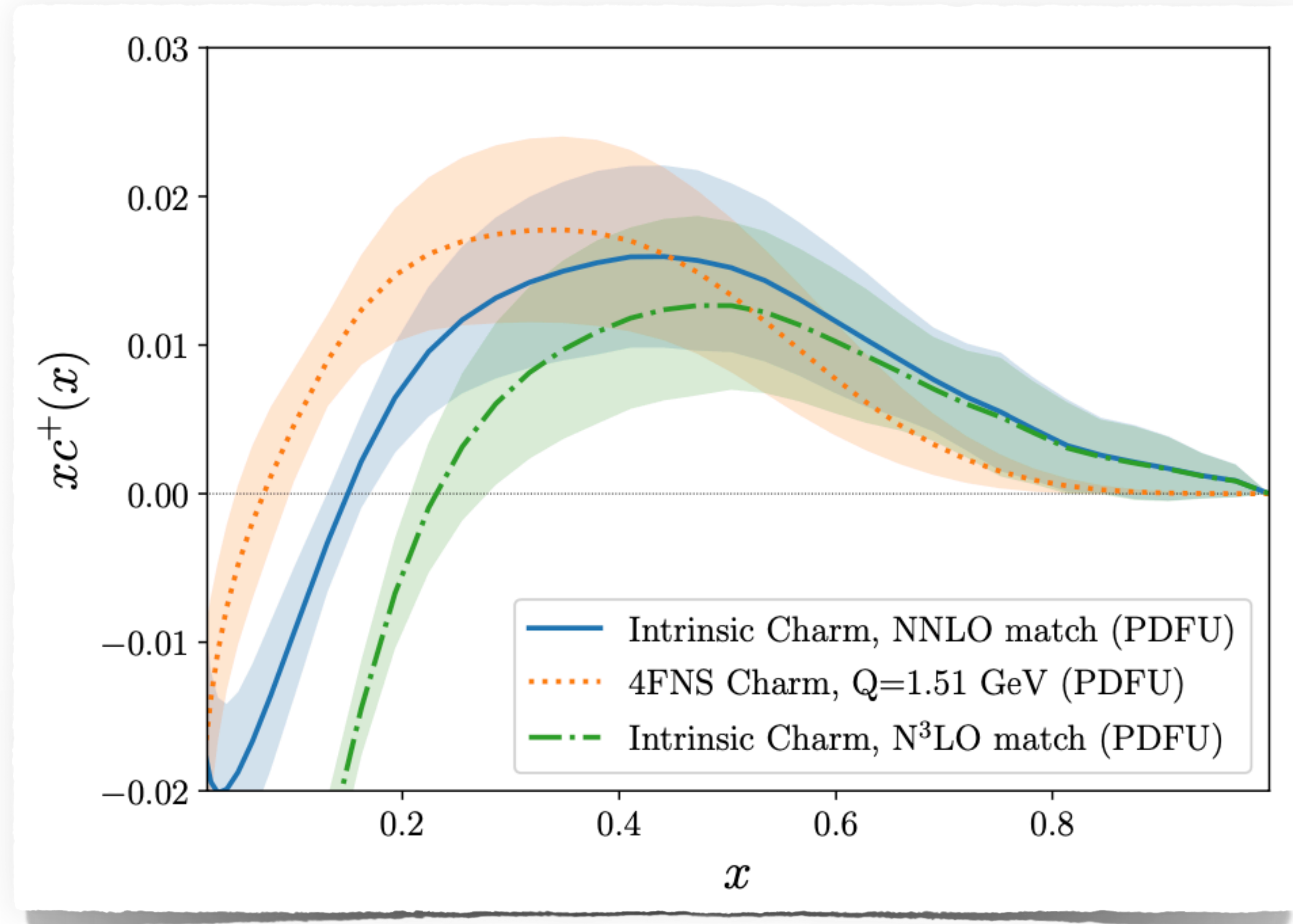


Further developments



Summary and Outlook

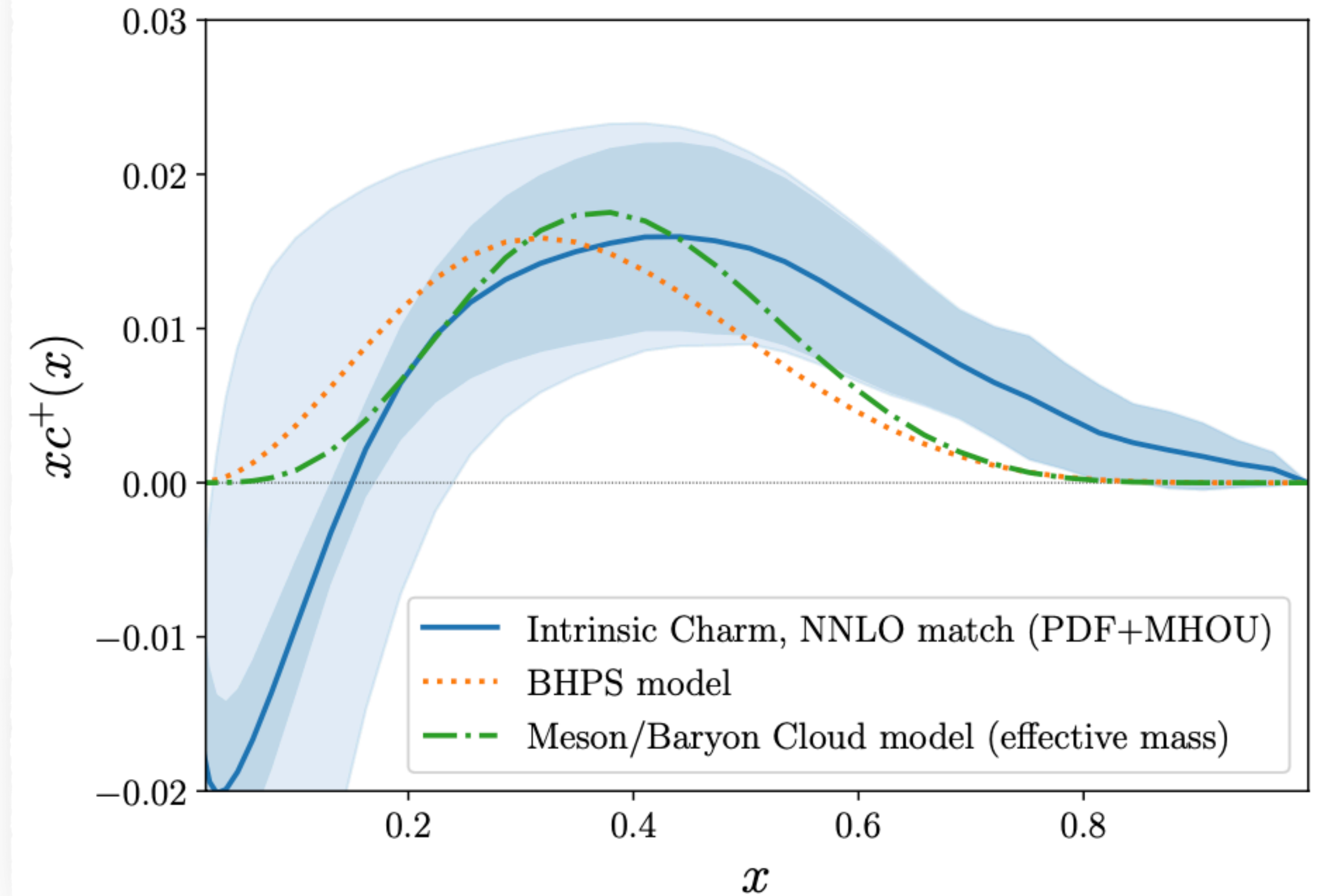
- Results of the fit: the matching is performed both at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$  and at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$
- PDFs uncertainties come from experimental uncertainties
- $c^+ = c + \bar{c} = 2c$



Intrinsic charm is not compatible with zero at  $3\sigma$  level

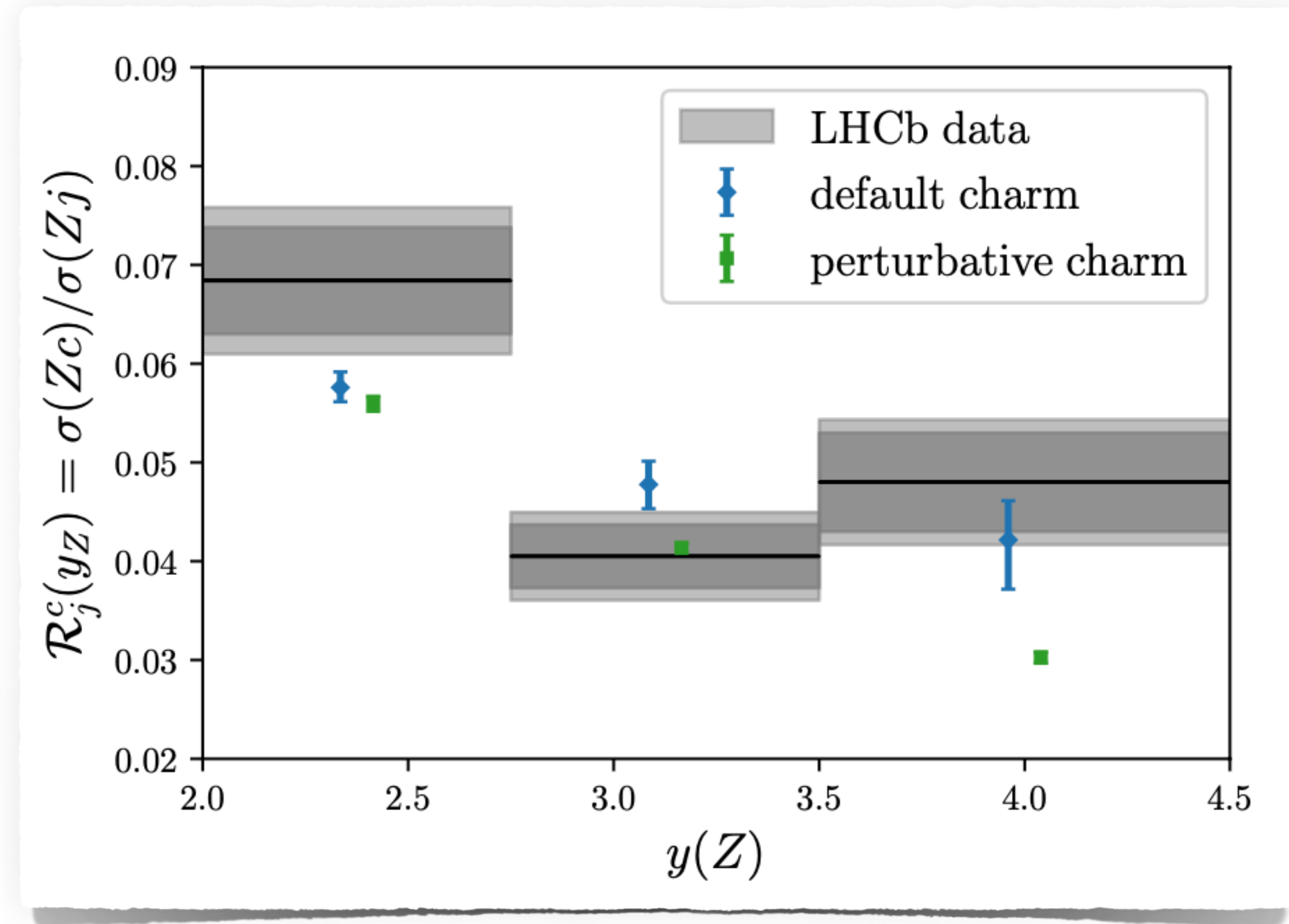


- Comparison with models
- PDFs uncertainties come from experimental uncertainties + missing higher orders uncertainty



It agrees with with BHPS and Meson/Baryon models

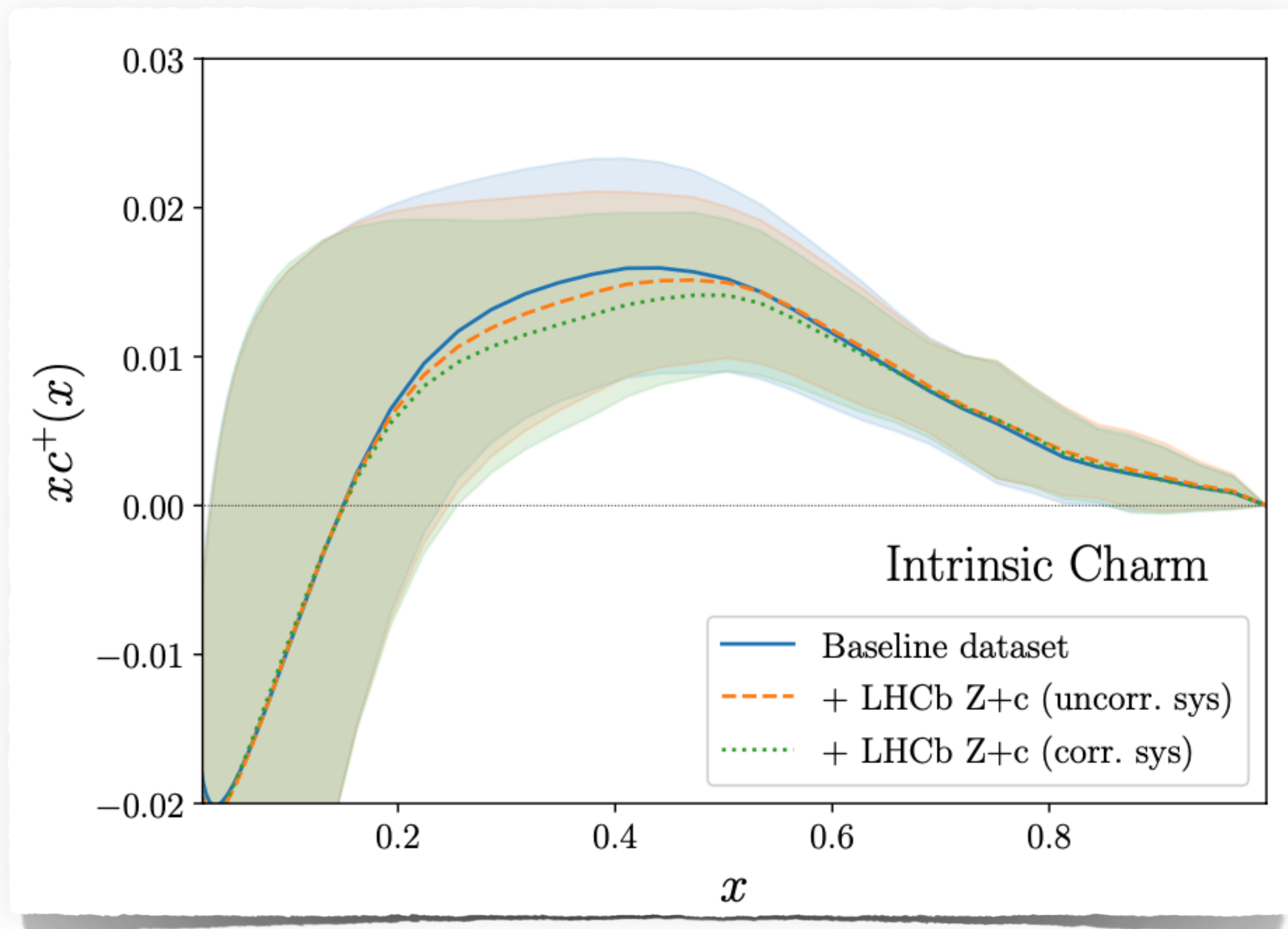
- Is our result in agreement with data not included in the fit?
- LHCb measurement of  $Z+c$  jet (sensitive to charm PDF)



Theoretical predictions agree with data!

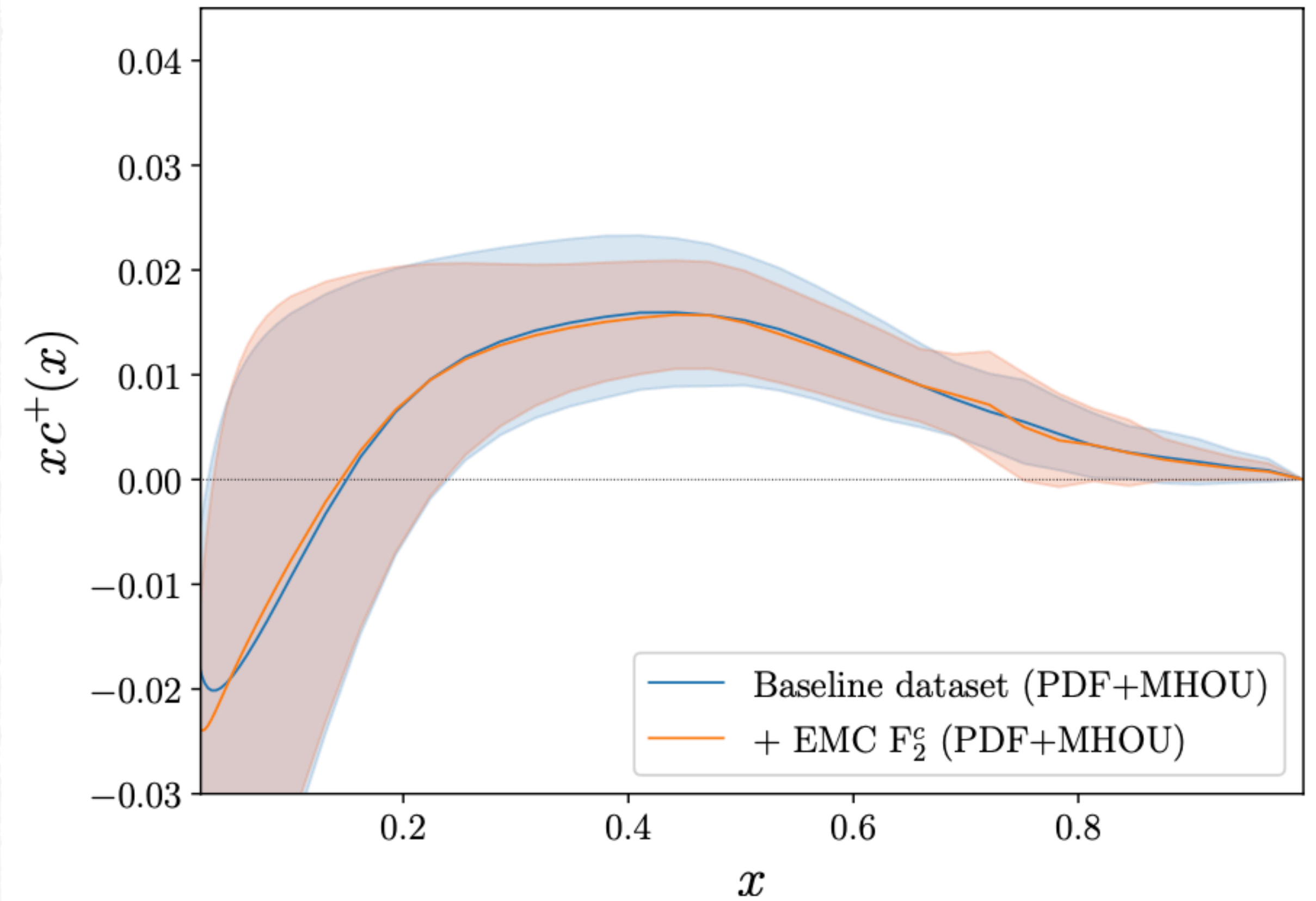
The last bin is the most correlated to the charm PDF (backup)

- Is our fit stable upon the inclusion of new data?
- LHCb measurement of Z+c jet are added to the dataset
- Two limiting cases: completely uncorrelated or fully correlated systematics between rapidity bins

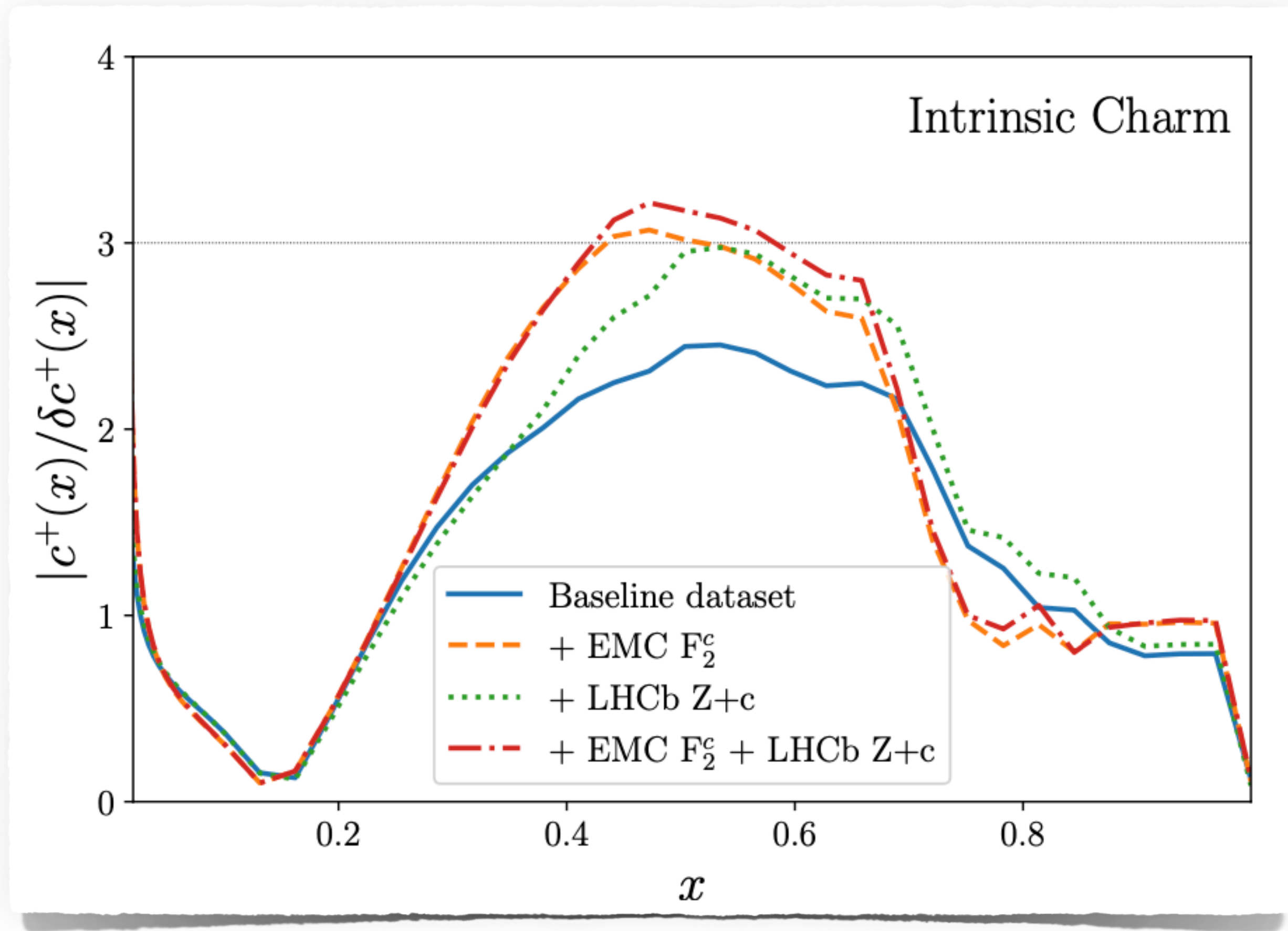


Almost same results!

- EMC DIS data with charm in the final state are added to the dataset
- They are not added to the default set since they are relatively imprecise

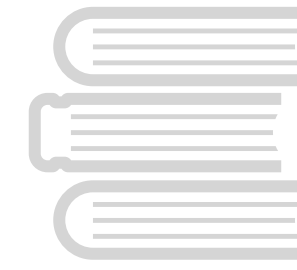


- Adding both LHCb and EMC data: local statistical significance

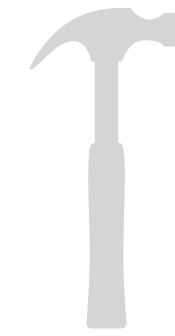


Fit is stable upon inclusion  
of new data!

# Outline



Theory background



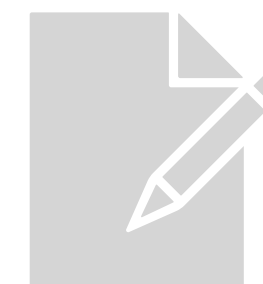
Methodology



Results



**Further developments**



Summary and Outlook

- What happens if we don't impose  $c = \bar{c}$ ?

Work in progress!



In the fit we imposed  
 $f_c^{[4]}(Q_0^2) = f_{\bar{c}}^{[4]}(Q_0^2)$

Nothing  
 constrains  $c = \bar{c}$

We extended the  
 neural network  
 to fit also  $\bar{c}$

Observation: with no intrinsic charm

$$f_c^{[4]}(\mu_c) = f_{\bar{c}}^{[4]}(\mu_c) = \sum_{j=g,q,\bar{q}} A_{cj} \left( \frac{m_c^2}{\mu_c^2} \right) \otimes f_j^{[3]}(\mu_c^2)$$

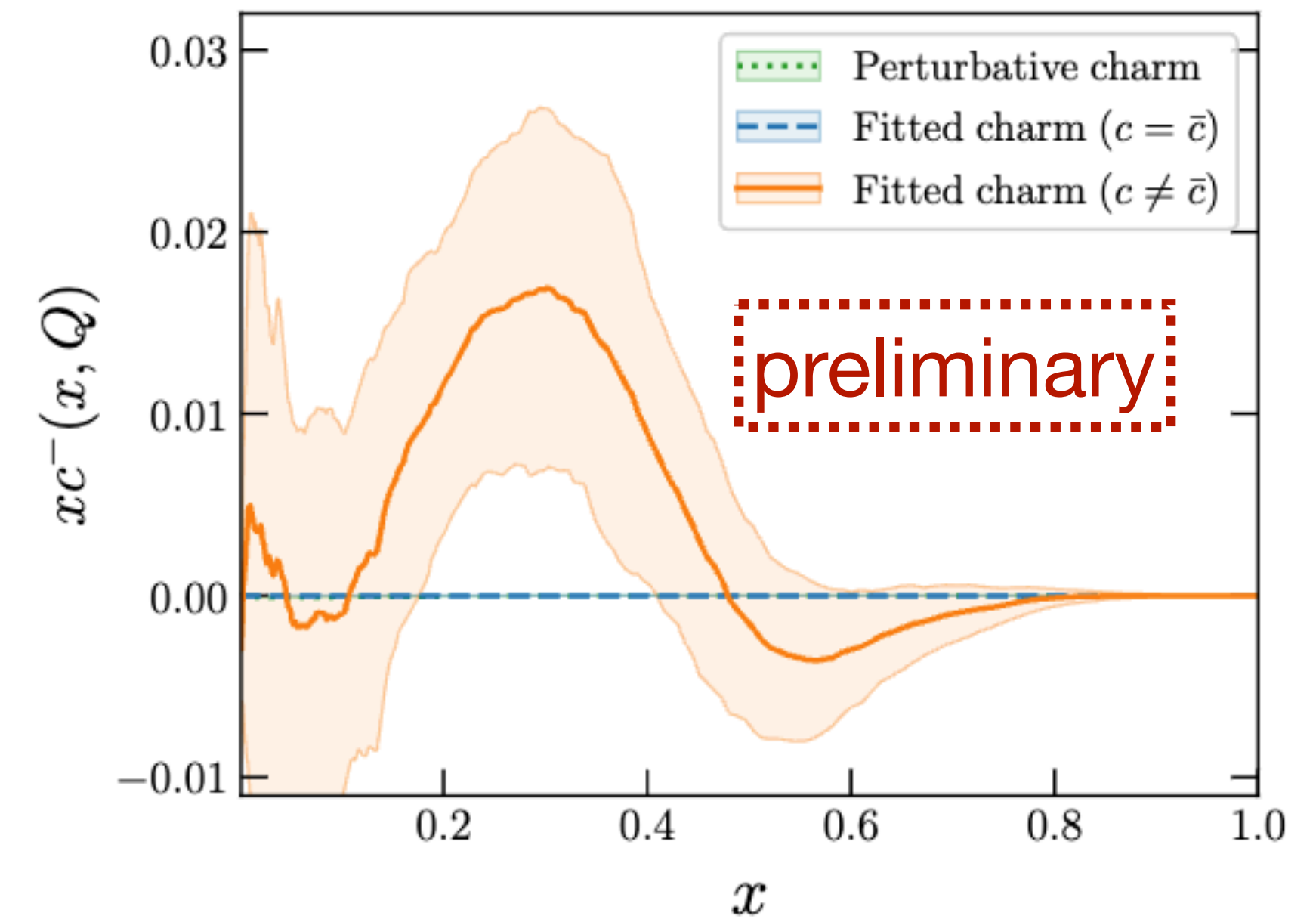
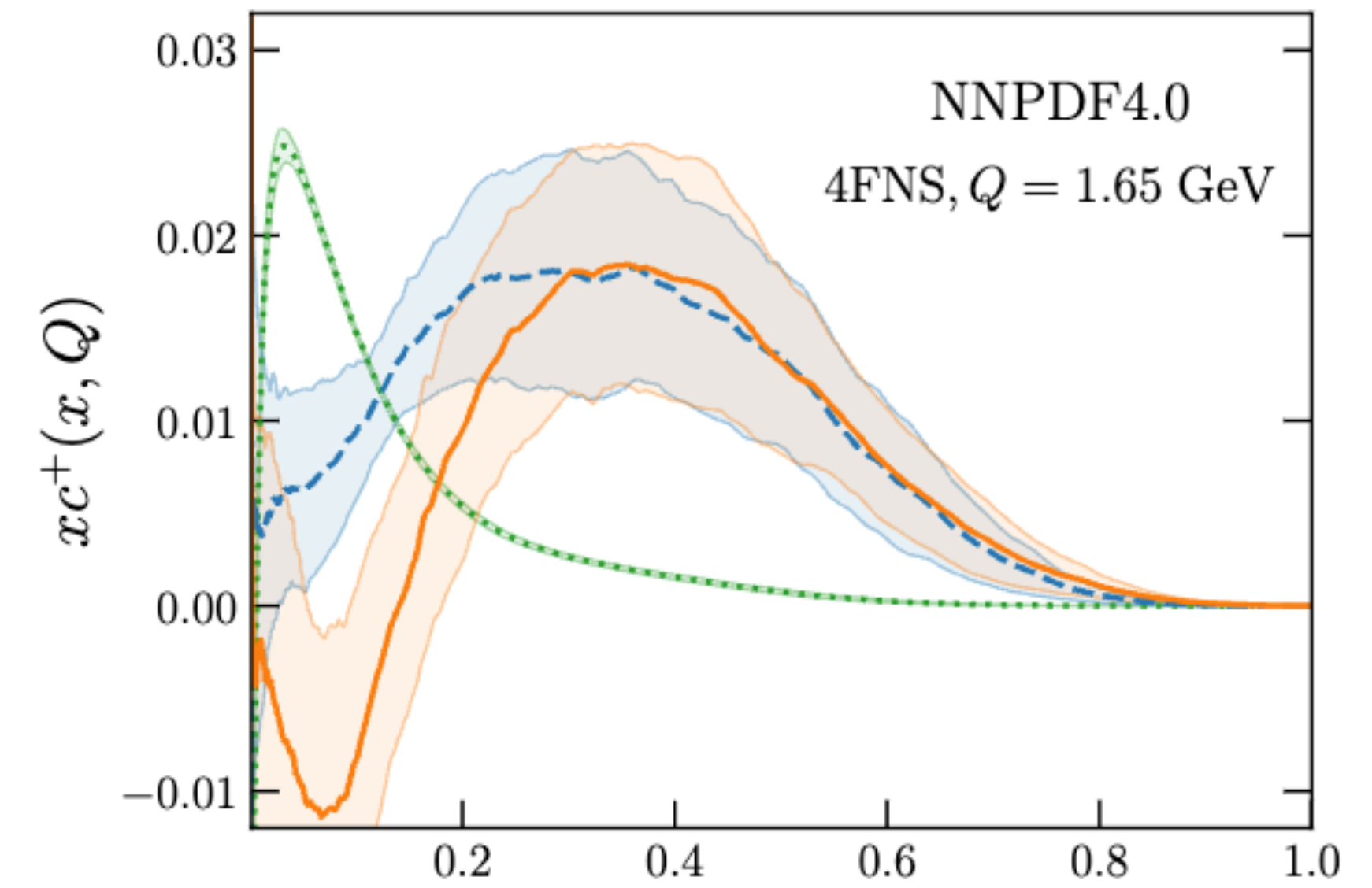
$c \neq \bar{c}$  would be another  
 evidence for intrinsic charm



- Preliminary results of intrinsic charm asymmetry

- $c^{\pm} = c \pm \bar{c}$

Work in progress!



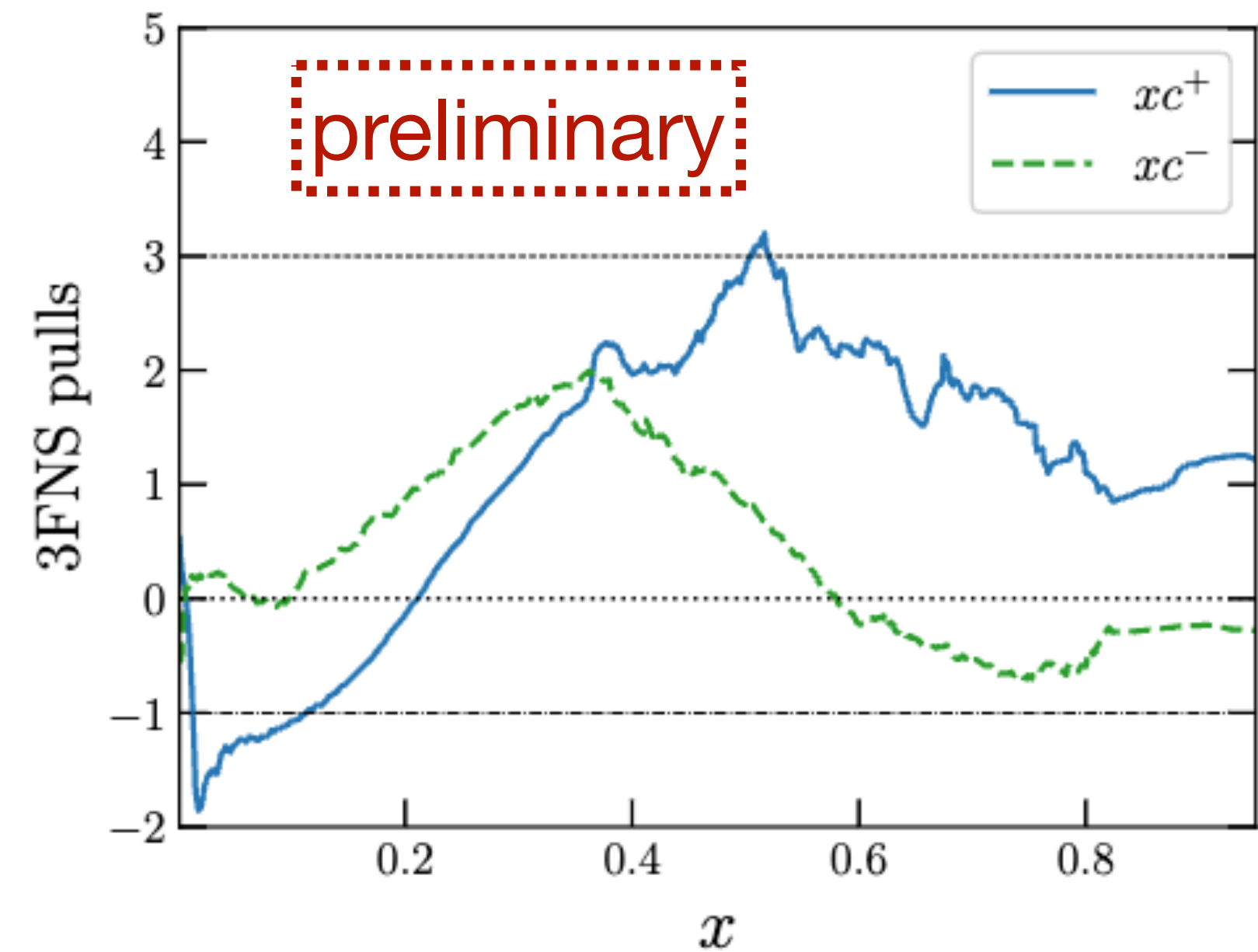
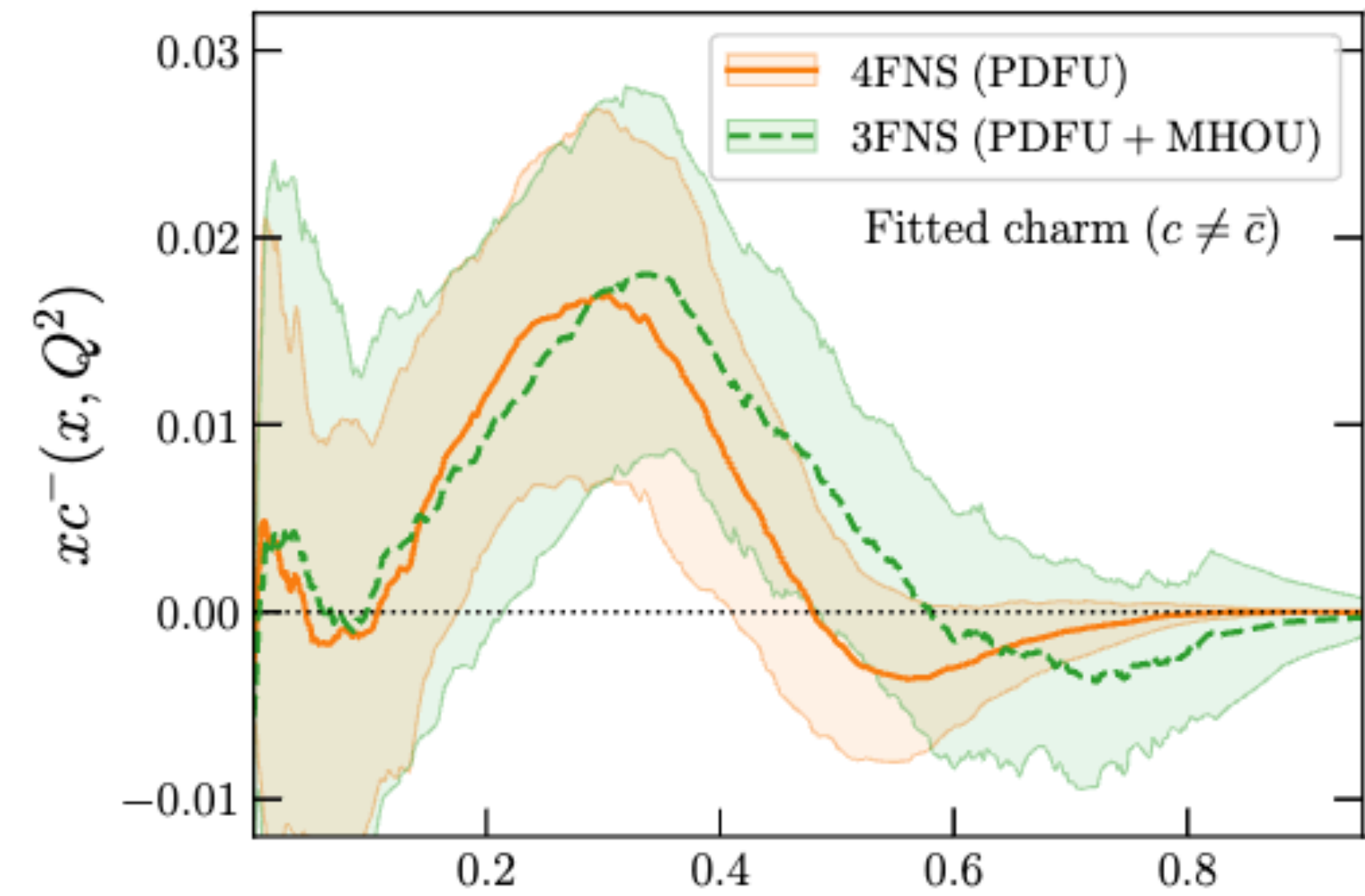
Asymmetry is observed ( $c^- \neq 0$ )



- Preliminary results of intrinsic charm asymmetry

- $\text{pulls} = \frac{\text{central PDF}}{\text{uncertainty}}$

Work in progress!

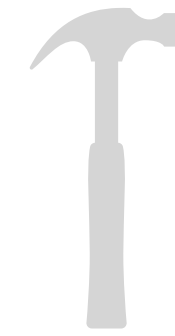


$2\sigma$  evidence for charm asymmetry!

# Outline



Theory background



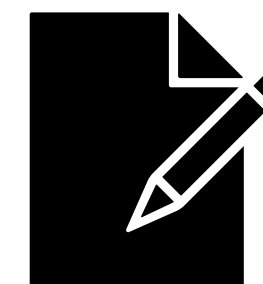
Methodology



Results



Further developments



**Summary and Outlook**

# Summary and Outlook

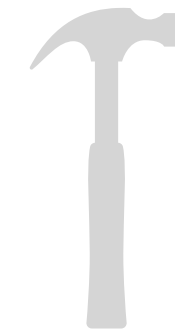
- ☑ Intrinsic charm is a non-perturbative component of the proton
- ☑ We disentangled the non-perturbative charm from the perturbative radiation
- ☑ We observed a non-zero intrinsic charm
- ☑ It agrees with models
- ☑ It can describe data not included in the fit
- ☑ The fit is stable upon inclusion of other data
- ☑ Investigating charm asymmetry gives  $c \neq \bar{c}$

**Thank you for your attention!**

# Backup



Theory background



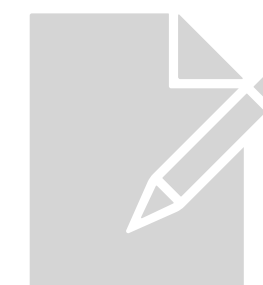
Methodology



Results



Further developments



Summary and Outlook

- Neglecting the mass of the quark as soon as we cross the threshold would be a rough approximation
- How do we include mass effects?

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma = & +a_0 \\ & +\alpha_s (a_1 \log(Q^2/m^2) + b_1) \\ & +\alpha_s^2 (a_2 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + b_2 \log(Q^2/m^2) + c_2) \\ & +\alpha_s^3 (a_3 \log^3(Q^2/m^2) + b_3 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + c_3 \log(Q^2/m^2) + d_3) \\ & +\dots\end{aligned}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{VFNS}} = ?$$

- Neglecting the mass of the quark as soon as we cross the threshold would be a rough approximation
- How do we include mass effects?

$$\sigma = +a_0$$

$$+ \alpha_s (a_1 \log(Q^2/m^2) + b_1)$$

$$+ \alpha_s^2 (a_2 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + b_2 \log(Q^2/m^2) + c_2)$$

$$+ \alpha_s^3 (a_3 \log^3(Q^2/m^2) + b_3 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + c_3 \log(Q^2/m^2) + d_3)$$

$$+ \dots$$

rows: fixed order ← 3FS

$$\sigma_{\text{VFNS}} = \sigma_{\text{f.o.}} + ?$$

- Neglecting the mass of the quark as soon as we cross the threshold would be a rough approximation
- How do we include mass effects?

$$\sigma = +a_0$$

$$+ \alpha_s (a_1 \log(Q^2/m^2) + b_1)$$

$$+ \alpha_s^2 (a_2 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + b_2 \log(Q^2/m^2) + c_2)$$

$$+ \alpha_s^3 (a_3 \log^3(Q^2/m^2) + b_3 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + c_3 \log(Q^2/m^2) + d_3)$$

$$+ \dots$$

- rows: fixed order ← 3FS
- columns: resummed ← 4FS

$$\sigma_{\text{VFNS}} = \sigma_{\text{f.o.}} + \sigma_{\text{res}} + ?$$

- Neglecting the mass of the quark as soon as we cross the threshold would be a rough approximation
- How do we include mass effects?

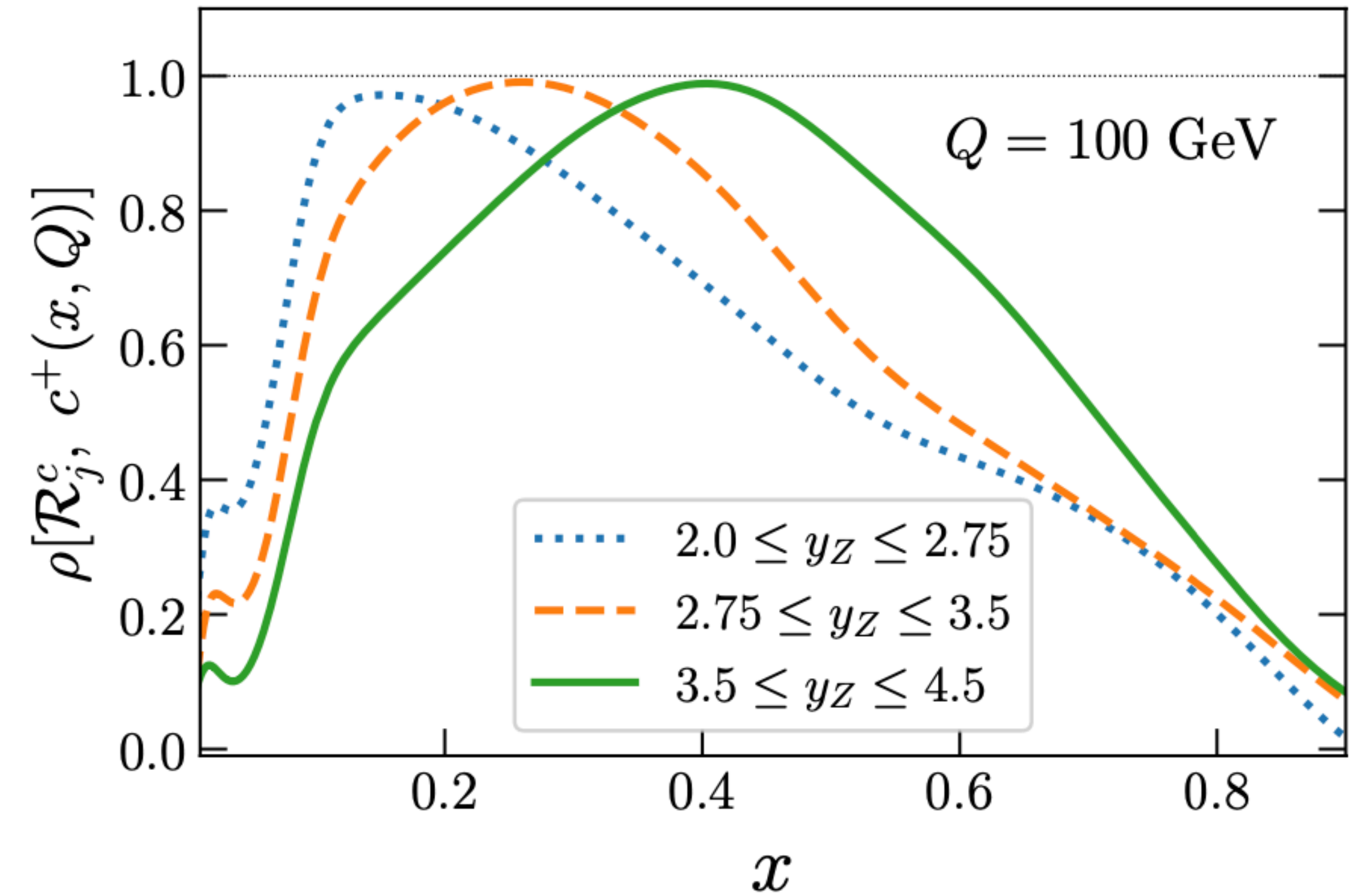
$$\sigma = \begin{aligned} &+a_0 \\ &+\alpha_s (a_1 \log(Q^2/m^2) + b_1) \\ &+\alpha_s^2 (a_2 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + b_2 \log(Q^2/m^2) + c_2) \\ &+\alpha_s^3 (a_3 \log^3(Q^2/m^2) + b_3 \log^2(Q^2/m^2) + c_3 \log(Q^2/m^2) + d_3) \\ &+\dots \end{aligned}$$

- rows: fixed order ← 3FS
- columns: resummed ← 4FS
- double counting

$$\sigma_{\text{VFNS}} = \sigma_{\text{f.o.}} + \sigma_{\text{res}} - \sigma_{\text{d.c.}}$$



- Correlation coefficient between charm PDF at 100 GeV and the observable  $R_j^c = \sigma(Zc)/\sigma(Zj)$



For the last curve (corresponding to the last bin of the measurements)  $R_j^c$  is mostly correlated to the region of the charm peak